

REMARKS

This application was originally filed with Claims 1-16; and the Preliminary Amendment cancelled Claims 1-16 and added new Claims 17-32. Claims 17-32 are now pending in the application.

In the Office Action, Claims 17-32 are rejected. In addition, the drawings filed December 17 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 17-21 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) on the basis of Higashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,300,915). Claims 22-32 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on the basis of Higashi in view of Hornbeck (U.S. Patent No. 5,021,663).

In the Office Action at Page 11, a statement is made that "The Higashi arrangement does not isolate the active detection zone (upper level) from the integrated circuit level (lower level)." The Office Action also makes note that these distinguishing features are not clearly recited in the claims.

In order to further distinguish the present invention from the cited art, independent Claim 17 has been amended herewith to incorporate the noted feature by inclusion of the phrase "and wherein the microbridge suspended layers are isolated from a substrate by the mechanical supports."

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment to Claim 17 renders it patentable over the applied art. Claims 18-32, which depend directly or indirectly on Claim 17, are submitted to be patentable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

If this present Amendment does not result in allowance of all pending claims, it is believed that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, and the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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